

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/534,157

Examiner

Edward Raymond

Applicant(s)

TSALAKOPOULOS, CHRIS

Art Unit

2857

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview 3/2/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 63-77, 81, 82 and 86-105.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20070302.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

Edward Raymond  
Primary Examiner  
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## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel J. Krueger on March 2, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace the text of **claim 63** with the following text:

"63. An apparatus configured for assisting a user in determining a level of acceptability of an event occurring, the apparatus comprising: an input for receiving a likelihood value which represents a likelihood that the event will occur, and a confidence value which represents a level of confidence that the user has in the likelihood value; a storage means for storing a plurality of records, a range of likelihood values, and a range of confidence values; an indicator assignor to assign a representative indicator to each of the plurality of records, each respective indicator representing a level of acceptability of the event occurring; an identifier configured for identifying one of the records in the store, the one of the records being identified by processing the likelihood value and the confidence value received by the input means, and each of the records stored in the store; and an output configured for outputting the assigned indicator of the one of the records identified by the identifier."

Replace the text of **claim 64** with the following text:

"64. The apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein for a subsequent input of a confidence value and a likelihood value of an event where a level of acceptability is to be determined, said identifier is configured to find a match of one or more stored records where the confidence values embrace the confidence value of the subsequent input, and to then from stored records of such match find a match of a single record where the likelihood values embrace the likelihood value of the subsequent input, and outputting the assigned indicator for a matched single record, or if the likelihood values do not embrace the likelihood value of the subsequent input, then a single stored record is identified where the likelihood value of the subsequent input is numerically closest to the likelihood values, and outputting the assigned indicator for that identified single record."

Replace the text of **claim 65** with the following text:

"65. The apparatus as claimed in claim 64, wherein the respective indicator in each of the records is a respective visual indicator each being a different color or symbol."

Replace the text of **claim 69** with the following text:

"The apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein the input comprises a graphical user interface."

Replace the text of **claim 70** with the following text:

"70. The apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein the store comprises a computer storage medium."

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Replace the text of **claim 72** with the following text:

"72. The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein the identifier comprises a suitably configured computer."

Replace the text of **claim 73** with the following text:

"73. The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein the output comprises a graphical user interface."

Replace the text of **claim 75** with the following text:

"75. The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein for a subsequent input of a confidence value and a likelihood value of an event where a level of acceptability is to be determined, using said identifier is configured to find a match of one or more stored records where the confidence values embrace the confidence value of the subsequent input, and to then from stored records of such match find a match of a single record where the likelihood values embrace the likelihood value of the subsequent input, and outputting the assigned indicator for a matched single record, or if the likelihood values do not embrace the likelihood value of the subsequent input, then a single stored record is identified where the likelihood value of the subsequent input is numerically closest to the likelihood values, and outputting the assigned indicator for that identified single record."

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. **Claims 63-77, 81, 82, 86-105** are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Wakeman et al. teach a method and system of confidence scoring. The prior art of record does not

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teach an indicator assignor to assign a respective indicator to each of the plurality of records, each respective indicator representing a level of acceptability of the event occurring; and an output is configured for outputting the assigned indicator of the one of the records identified by the identifier.

The prior art of record does not teach an apparatus for determining a level of confidence in a risk assessment, the apparatus comprising: obtaining means operable to obtain a weighting that is associated with at least one of a plurality of factors that can influence a reliability of the risk assessment; and comparing means operable to compare the weighting to a range of weightings which are associated with the factors in order to determine the level of confidence in the risk assessment; wherein the obtaining means is such that it uses the at least one of the factors to retrieve the weighting from a record of the weightings and is operable to retrieve the weighting from the record by using a first index and a second index to retrieve the weighting from the record, wherein the first index corresponds to a first of the at least one of the factors, and the second index corresponds to a second and a third of the at least one of the factors; and wherein the first of the at least one of the factors relates to an environmental parameter associated with the risk assessment, the second of the at least one of the factors relates to an amount of work performed to determine the risk assessment, and the third of the at least one of the factors relates to a level of acceptance associated with the amount of work performed and a technique used to perform the work.

The prior art of record does not teach a method having first factors which rate the environment context of the risk assessment; second factors based on the extent of work

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performed to derive the risk assessment; third factors which rate a level of acceptance of the extent of the work performed to derive the risk assessment; processing means for: processing the second and third factors to identify each possible combination of the second and third factors; processing each identified combination of second and third factors, with first factors, to identify each possible combination of second and third factors, with first factors; processing each possible combination of second and third factors, with first factors, to establish a weighting index for each possible combination of second and third factors, with first factors, each weighting index representing a level of confidence in a risk assessment; and output means for outputting a spread range of the set of weighting indexes, and the particular risk assessment corresponding to a combination of the factors used to establish the weighting index, whereby a confidence in the risk assessment is determinable by the relative position of the weighting index in the spread range of the indexes outputted.

The prior art of record does not teach a method establishing a weighting index for each identified possible combination of second and third with first factors, wherein each weighting index represents a level of confidence in a risk assessment within the set of weighting indicators, and determining a level of confidence by selecting factors which match a risk assessment, and noting the weighting index therefore and its relative position within the set of weighting indexes.

#### ***Contact Information***

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

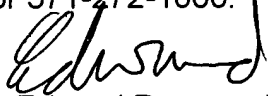
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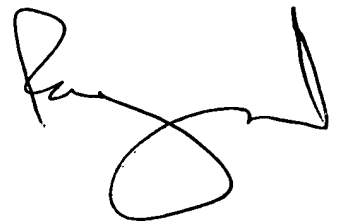
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Raymond whose telephone number is 571-272-2221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Edward Raymond  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2857



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